Presley Vocal Scarecrow

300 City Seagulls Couldn't Be Wrong

By JIM TAYLOR

Oak Bay seagulls are more cultured than Victoria seagulls, and neither type can stand Elvis Presley any more than their British relatives can.

The British gulls got into the act this week in London when the ministry of supply reported that Presley records have become the No. 1 weapon in the ministry's drive to get rid of gulls which have become a flying hazard at Staines airport.

When Presley's voice popped out of a loudspeaker, the gulls took flight in panic and didn't reappear for 24 hours, the ministry said.

LOCAL GULLDOM

Yesterday tests were made at Beacon Hill Park and Beach Drive to get the viewpoint of local gulldom. While they circled and tried range-finding dives, the interviewer serenaded them with different types of music via record player, all the while cringing in dreadful anticipation.

There was a little trouble getting started.

To begin with, the player was a plug-in affair. Did you ever have to knock on a door and say: "Pardon me, madam, but may I plug my record player into one of your outlets? I want to play music for the seagulls."

BATTERY PLAYER

Finally, a battery-operated player was produced and taken to Beacon Hill Park.

The gulls there took quite kindly to Frank Chacksfield's version of "Ebb Tide," a few even coming closer to find the source of the gull sounds on the record.

But when Presley cut loose with the overture to "You Ain't Nothing But A Hound Dog," they took hurried flight.

They may be back in 24 hours, but none of the other records, or even bread crumbs, could bring them back in any numbers for the next 15 minutes.

SOMETHING BETTER

Off Beach Drive things were different. It was obvious from the start that the gulls there had been exposed to something better than garbage at some point in their lives.

They greeted Chacksfield with discreet squawks, and took wing even faster than the city gulls when tested with Presley's "My Baby Left Me." But they actually came back to earth after a few soothing minutes of the theme from Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto, and some even sat through the theme from Swan Lake Ballet.

ROUGH-AND-READY

Victoria gulls, a more rough-and-ready breed, would have nothing to do with this type of music.

But the interviews proved one thing: Presley isn't for the birds. After all, 300 gulls can't be wrong.

In fact, the tests solved every problem but one: how to clean up the record player.

Seagull searcher Jim Taylor.

Fulton Expected to Succeed Smith

Cabinet Shuffle Set?

OTTAWA (UPI) — The death of External Affairs Minister Sidney Smith may trigger a wholesale reshuffle in the federal cabinet, informants said yesterday.

Until Prime Minister John Diefenbaker completes arrangements for the widespread shakeup, Justice Minister Davie Fulton is expected to take over the external affairs portfolio on an acting basis.

Informed sources offered some names regarded as certain to be involved in the shuffle and some of the most likely changes.

Fulton would appear to be the outstanding favorite for the external affairs post. He has acted as external affairs minister in the absence of both Smith and the prime minister and his justice portfolio would be one of the easiest to fill.

In this regard, two of the most mentioned candidates are David Walker, MP for Toronto Rosedale and Fulton's former parliamentary assistant, and Arthur Maloney, a noted lawyer and member for Toronto Parkdale. Either would fill the Ontario vacancy in the cabinet left by Smith's death.

The other "sure thing" appears to be that Marc Drouin, now speaker of the senate, will enter the cabinet in any major reshuffle.

Other ministers mentioned as possible candidates for a change in a wholesale cabinet reorganization are Finance Minister Donald Fleming, Trade Minister Gordon Churchill, Veterans Affairs Minister A. J. Brooks, Revenue Minister George Nowlan and Immigration Minister Ellen Fairclough.

In regard to both Fleming and Brook, the feeling has been that any change would mean a move right out of the cabinet—the finance minister to the Supreme Court of Canada and the veterans affairs minister to the Senate.

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In the Legislature

Trades Union Act Passed After Bitter Night Battle

The provincial legislature finally passed the controversial Trade Unions Act yesterday about 5 a.m. after an all-night sitting of bitter debate.

Premier Bennett's government won out in a 30-12 vote with CCF and Liberal MLAs opposed.

The struggle over Bill 43, which restricts sympathy picketing and makes labor unions and employers subject to be sued and able to sue, had been conducted for close to 15 hours in its third-reading stage.

On the second reading a similar debate raged until 4.38 a.m.

Just before the end of yesterday's debate, with some 19 sleepy spectators looking on, Premier Bennett jumped to his feet and denied opposition charges that it was a "class legislation."

* * *

A cemetery firm, identifed as Bronze Memorials, was accused yesterday in the legislature of holding a monopoly.

Charge was made by Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East) during discussion of estimates for the Public Utilities Commission.

"They should look into the monopoly that is now approaching a dangerous stage in the matter of cemeteries," Mr. Turner said. "Bronze Memorials Ltd. has control of three cemeteries in the Lower Mainland and they are now buying into undertakers.

"They have a monopoly on bronze memorials and pressure is put onto families to buy these."

* * *

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan yesterday presented a petition to the legislature which was signed by 70,000 names.

He explained the names were gathered by the B.C. Federation of Labor and had there been more time there would have been many more thousands of names.

The petition, urges action to meet the problems of unemployment.

* * *

Target date for the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway is 1960, Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi announced in the legislature yesterday, during debate on capital expenditure estimates.

The estimate for the highway construction for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1960, was $19,717,500.

* * *

Although the Public Utilities Commission has a staff of only five or six to examine companies which fall under its jurisdiction, the commission is empowered to hire any help necessary, Premier Bennett explained in the House yesterday.

Company Earnings

Bicroft Uranium Mines Ltd., year ended Dec. 31: 1958, $1,370,301 (48 cents a share), 1957, $46,764 (1.5 cents).

British American Bank Note Company Ltd., year ended Dec. 31: 1958, $467,599 ($3.12 a share), 1957, $437,267 ($2.91).

Macassa Mines Ltd., year ended Dec. 31: 1958, $444,833 (16.6 cents a share), 1957, $516,606 (19 cents).

Westeel Products Ltd., year ended Dec. 31: 1958, $607,447 ($1.29 a share), 1957, $830,719 ($1.76).

Yukon Consolidated Gold Corp. Ltd., year ended Dec. 31: 1958, $177,000 (3 cents a share), 1957, $227,524 (3¾ cents).

No Opinions, Socreds Told

CCF leader Robert Strachan, calling for "political morality," moved a legislature motion yesterday to have the government cease printing statements of opinion on the fly-leafs of controversial government bills.

He mentioned a statement printed on the Trade Union Act which sent the house into an uproar Wednesday night and has since been explained by the speaker as an oversight on the part of the Queen's Printer.

The opposition leader, amid interruptions by the government benches, said it had happened again, only worse. His reference was to a statement of opinion printed on the back of a government bill which will outlaw picketing of government property.

The statement referred to last Friday's four-hour strike by civil servants as an "usurpation."

Mr. Strachan said the house should condemn this practice and uphold "political morality" of the legislature.

Attorney-General Bonner, who had been interrupting, then rose and adjourned the debate. He is not bound to bring the matter up again, which could mean the house will hear no more of it before prorogation.

Trailer Law Claims Victim

In a first application in the Sidney area of new regulations governing towing of cement mixers and similar machines on the highway, Robert Harris, East Saanich Road, was fined $10 yesterday.

He was charged before Magistrate Alan Calvert in Sidney police court with pulling a "trailer" behind a motor vehicle without having a trailer licence or permit.

RCMP said the case was the first in the district since new regulations on trailers went into effect.

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